

FROM, SAC, NEW YORK M3P

UNSUB, BEN HECHT, [REDACTED] PAREN AGE

[REDACTED] CLOSE PAREN DASH VICTIMS. EXTORTION.

ON ELEVEN TWENTYEIGHT FIFTYEIGHT AT NINE THIRTY PM BEN HECHT

TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED NYO AND ADVISED HE HAS RECEIVED

THREATENING TELEPHONE CALLS. ARRANGEMENTS MADE AT

NYO'S REQUEST TO INTERVIEW HIM TODAY. HECHT INTERVIEWED

[REDACTED] STATED THAT APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AMERICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION TOLD HIM SHE

RECEIVED A TELEPHONE REQUEST FROM PERSON IDENTIFYING

HIMSELF AS JOHN CROSBY, WELL KNOWN COLUMNIST,

REQUESTING HECHT'S UNLISTED RESIDENCE TELEPHONE NUMBER. [REDACTED] TOLD HECHT

SHE SHE

BELIEVED THE VOICE REQUESTING THE TELEPHONE NUMBER TO BE THAT OF

CROSBY-S AND THEREFOR FURNISHED UNLISTED NUMBER AT HECHT'S RESIDENCE.

ON SAME AFTERNOON HECHT ADVISED HE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL AT HIS

ABC OFFICE FROM A PERSON WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS OTTO PREMMINGER,

WELL KNOWN HOLLYWOOD PRODUCER. HECHT STATED HE KNOWS PREMMINGER AND

BELIEVES HE RECOGNIZED THE VOICE TO BE THAT OF PREMMINGER AND BELIEVED

FOR SEVERAL MINUTES OF CONVERSATION. HECHT STATED THAT WHEN CALLER

STARTED TO ABUSE HIM IN VULGAR LANGUAGE HE REASONED THAT IT COULD NOT

BE PREMMINGER. THE CALLER CONTINUED ABUSING HECHT AND ACCUSING HIM

OF BEING A QUOTE "A JEW LOVER" END QUOTE AND THAT HE WAS BEING SEVERLY

SEVERLY CRITICAL OF THE GERMAN SLAUGHTER OF JEWS DURING WORLD

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WAR TWO. HECHT STATED THAT SINCE THE TIME OF FIRST CALL HE AND HIS FAMILY RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY FIFTY TELEPHONE CALLS AT BOTH HIS OFFICE AND ON HIS UNLISTED NUMBER AT RESIDENCE. HECHT STATED THAT IN THE MAJORITY OF CALLS THE UNSUB HAS THREATENED TO KILL HIM, ~~QUOTE~~ "TAKE THE BLOOD OUT OF HIM" ~~END QUOTE~~ AND MANY OTHER THREATS OF A LEWD AND VULGAR NATURE. UNSUB HAS ALSO SEVERAL TIMES THREATENED TO CRUCIFY HIM AND MAKE A ~~QUOTE~~ LAMP SHADE ~~END QUOTE~~ OUT OF HIS [REDACTED]

HECHT IS OF THE OPINION THERE IS ONLY ONE INDIVIDUAL MAKING ALL OF THE CALLS DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE CALLER IS USING A NUMBER OF VOICES. HECHT STATED CALLER USES A GERMAN, IRISH, AND JEWISH DIALECT AND ALSO IMITATES A WOMENS VOICE. HECHT SAID THE DIALECTS AND WOMENS VOICE ARE EXCELLENT IMITATIONS DONE WITH A PROFESSIONAL AIR. HECHT STATED HE ALSO BELIEVES THE UNSUB MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH ABC TELEVISION INASMUCH AS HE IS COGNIZANT OF ABC OPERATIONS, NAMES AND TELEVISION TECHNIQUES. HECHT STATED HE BELIEVES HE HAS HEARD A SOMEWHAT IDENTICAL VOICE IN A TELEVISION ADVERTISEMENT FILM IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO JOHN DALY-S EVENING ABC NEWS CAST. HECHT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE VOICE IS THAT OF THE UNSUB. HECHT STATED THAT HE HAS ENGAGED THE UNSUB IN CONVERSTION FOR AS LONG AS FIVE MINUTES AND THAT HIS DAUGHTER

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HAS TALKED FOR AS LONG AS TEN TO FIFTEEN MINUTES. HECHT STATED UNSUB HAS FREQUENTLY USED IRISH ~~NAME~~ NAMES IN IDENTIFYING HIMSELF. HECHT STATED UNSUB HAS ALWAYS HAD A GOOD TELEPHONE CONNECTION THAT HE HAS NEVER HEARD A TELEPHONE OPERATORS VOICE EITHER PRECEDING OR DURING CALL. ~~HE~~ WAS HE HEARD ANY INDICATION CALLS WERE BEING MADE FROM A PAY ~~PHONE~~. HECHT PROVIDED NAMES OF PERSONS WHO HAVE HIS ~~UNLISTED~~ TELEPHONE NUMBER HOWEVER HE DOES NOT SUSPECT ANY OF THEM NOR DOES HE HAVE ANY SUSPECTS. HECHT STATED HE HAS NOT ADVISED THE NYCPD.

HECHT UNAVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW UNTIL TWELVE ONE FIFTYEIGHT AT WHICH TIME HE WILL BE RECONTACTED AND BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE FORWARDED FOLLOWED RELATIVE TO REFERRAL OF THIS MATTER TO THE NYCPD .

CORR PLS PAGE THREE LINE THREE 7 TH WORD IS TELEPHONE

END AND ACK PLS

WA 7-32PM OK FBI WA CRA

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CC: MR. LORRY  
ADMINISTRATION  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

URGENT 12-1-58 3-07 PM JLW

TO DIRECTOR 4

FROM SAC NEW YORK 1P

UNSUB, BEN HECHT, [REDACTED] - VICTIMS, EXTORTION. RE NEW YORK TEL, [REDACTED]

NOVEMBER TWENTYNINE LAST. HECHT INTERVIEWED THIS DATE AND ADVISED THAT ON BASIS OF INFO HE FURNISHED THERE IS NO INDICATED VIOLATION WITHIN JURISDICTION OF THE BUREAU. HECHT WAS FURTHER ADVISED THE NYO WOULD BE GLAD TO REPORT THIS MATTER TO A HIGH NYCPD OFFICIAL OR IF HE WISHED TO REPORT IT, WE WOULD PROVIDE HIM WITH NAME OF APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO HECHT THAT IF THE MATTER WAS REFERRED TO THE NYCPD, WE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE KEPT IN CONFIDENCE AND THAT WE COULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY PUBLICITY. HECHT WAS REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE NYO OF ANY FUTURE THREATENING CALLS WHICH ARE INTERSTATE, AFTER BEING ADVISED OF THE FOREGOING, HECHT STATED HE HAS THOUGHT ABOUT THE CALLS OVER THE WEEKEND, AND HE BELIEVED THAT TWO OF THE CALLS MAY HAVE COME FROM NJ LOCATION AND THAT HE HEARD VOICE OF TELEPHONE OPERATOR. HE COULD NOT RECALL LOCATIONS FROM WHICH CALLS WERE MADE. HECHT WAS REQUESTED TO FURNISH SPECIFIC INFO AND ADVISED HE COULD NOT. IN VIEW OF NON SPECIFIC INFO, NO INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED AND MATTER WILL NOT BE TURNED OVER TO NYCPD AS HECHT REQUESTED PD NOT BE ADVISED. 35535

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~~CORR. LINE 11 INSERT A PERIOD AFTER WORD INTERSTATE~~

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63 DEC 8 1958

Mr. Rosen

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